

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action having a mailing date of June 16, 2004. Claims 1-11 are pending in the present Application.

This application is under Final Rejection. Applicant has presented arguments hereinbelow that Applicant believes should render the claims allowable. In the event, however, that the Examiner is not persuaded by Applicant's arguments, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the Amendment to clarify issues upon appeal.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,624,971 (Sasaki). In addition, in response to Applicant's arguments, the Examiner stated:

Sasaki shows an embodiment in figure [sic] 14 with a portion of the bottom surface extending over pedestal 27A and along gap 9 beyond the back of the pedestal and being substantially flat such that a zero throat height of the write head is defined by the pedestal 27A, as required by the claim.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection.

Because the pedestal defined zero throat height (PDZT) write head of claims 1 and 6 use a pedestal having a recess and, therefore, a reduced throat height, the PDZT head may exhibit a lower rise time, improved writeability, and less inadvertent writing of adjacent tracks.

Specification, page 5, lines 11-19 and page 6, line 18-page 7, line 2. Moreover, the PDZT head is less likely to be subject to shorting between the poles. Specification, page 5, lines 20-22.

The cited portions of Sasaki fail to teach or suggest a PDZT write head or a method for providing such a PDZT write head in which the pedestal has a recess at the back and in which the zero throat height is defined by the pedestal because the bottom surface of the other pole is substantially flat beyond the pedestal. Applicant agrees that the items 7 and 9 of Sasaki are the first (bottom) pole and the write gap. However, item 27A is the pole tip for the top, second pole of

Sasaki, not a pedestal for the first pole. Sasaki states that the top pole tip includes 27A and is shaped with a recess 60. Sasaki, col. 11, lines 13-19 and Figures 5-9. Furthermore, Sasaki states that this top pole tip is used as a mask to form a trim structure on the first, bottom pole. Sasaki, col. 11, lines 39-43. Thus, if a pedestal exists in for the first pole in Fig. 6 of Sasaki, the pedestal would be the trim structure indicated under item 9 and discussed in col. 11, lines 39-43. Thus, as is shown in Fig. 6 of Sasaki, the trim structure has the same shape as the pole tip of the second pole. The trim structure and the top pole tip 27A both include the recess 60 at the rear of the pole tip. Therefore, because of the shape of the trim structure and the structure 27A being part of the second, top pole, there is no substantially flat bottom surface extending beyond the pedestal (trim structure) in the head depicted in Fig. 6 of Sasaki. Consequently, this portion of Sasaki fails to teach or suggest the recited PDZT write head and method of claims 1 and 6.

The Examiner's citation of Fig. 14 does not alter this conclusion. Sasaki's discussion of Fig. 14 states that the modification, presumably to the primary embodiment shown in Fig. 6 of Sasaki, is the "position of the edge face 22 on the front side (air bearing surface side) in the connection portion 27C(2) of the top pole 27C may cross the position of the edge face T1 and extend so as to overlap a part of the intermediate coupling portion 27A(2). Sasaki, col. 18, lines 46-51. Fig. 14 of Sasaki thus merely describes a change in the location at which the top portion of the second pole, item 27C, attaches to the pole tip 27A. Again, because of the shape of the trim structure and the structure 27A being part of the second, top pole, there is no substantially flat bottom surface extending beyond the pedestal in the head depicted in Fig. 14 of Sasaki. Consequently, Fig. 14 of Sasaki also fails to teach or suggest the recited PDZT head and method of claims 1 and 6. Thus, the cited portions of Sasaki fail to teach or suggest the PDZT write head and the method recited in claims 1 and 6, respectively.

Applicant notes that Fig. 13 of Sasaki does not teach or suggest the PDZT head and method recited in claims 1 and 6, respectively. The trim structure depicted in Fig. 13 of Sasaki does not include the notch 60 at the rear. However, the pole tip 27A of the second pole still exists. Consequently, the second pole of the head of Sasaki has no substantially flat bottom surface extending beyond the pedestal in the head depicted in Fig. 13 of Sasaki. Moreover, because the trim structure is missing the rear portion, there is arguably no pedestal that is part of the first pole of Sasaki. Consequently, Fig. 13 of Sasaki still fails to teach or suggest the PDZT and method recited in claims 1 and 6, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the PDZT write head and method recited in claims 1 and 6, respectively, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-5 and 7-11 depend upon independent claims 1 and 6, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 2-5 and 7-11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 7-11 are allowable over the cited references.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 9 are separately allowable over the cited references. Claims 3 and 9 recite that the edges of the recess lie outside of the second pole. Because the edges of the recess for the pedestal lie outside the second pole, the poles are less likely to short. Specification, page 5, lines 21-24.

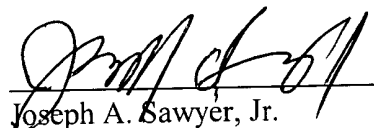
In contrast, as discussed above, Sasaki specifically states that the top pole tip is used as a mask to trim the bottom pole. Sasaki, col. 11, lines 37-44. Consequently, the edges of any recess in either the top pole tip or the trim structure of the bottom pole are at substantially the same location for the heads depicted in Figs. 6 and 14 of Sasaki. Thus, to the extent that the cited portion of Sasaki teaches a pedestal having a shape of that matches the top pole tip 27A(1), 27A(2), and 27A(3), the cited portion of Sasaki also teaches away from having a pedestal having a notch with edges outside of the top pole tip. Further, the head depicted in Fig. 13 of Sasaki

does not include the recited pedestal and any notch in the second, top pole 27(A) lies inside the edges of the first and second poles. Consequently, the cited portions of Sasaki do not teach or suggest a PDZT head in which the edges of the recess in the pedestal are outside of the pole or a method of forming such a PDZT head. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 3 and 9 are separately allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
SAWYER LAW GROUP LLP

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Date


Joseph A. Sawyer, Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 30,801
(650) 493-4540